



Furzedown Team Ministry

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2018

for the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 28th April 2019

20|20
VISION

ALL OF LIFE FOR CHRIST

empowering

ordinary people to live extraordinary lives

by

enabling

people to come to know Jesus as Saviour
and

equipping

people to live for Jesus as Lord

Visibility & Presence

Becoming more effective in enabling the people of Furzedown
to know St James is here!

Welcome & Hospitality

Becoming more effective in enabling people
to feel 'at home' in St James

Worship & Teaching

Becoming more effective in enabling people
to encounter God in our services

Mission & Evangelism

Becoming more effective in enabling people
to explore the Gospel & become whole-life followers of Jesus

Nurture & Discipleship

Becoming more effective in enabling people
to grow in faith and to live out the Gospel in everyday life

Children & Youth

Becoming more effective in enabling children & young people
to know Jesus and to live for Him

Leadership & Governance

Becoming more effective in ensuring that our
leadership & governance enables the vision to become a reality

Buildings & Resources

Becoming more effective in resourcing the vision

with finance, buildings, people & prayer

ALL OF LIFE FOR CHRIST

empowering | enabling | equipping

**Agenda for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 28th April 2019**

1. Welcome and Opening Worship
2. Apologies, Minutes of 2018 APCM & Matters Arising
3. Election of Church Wardens
4. Electoral Roll Report
5. PCC Secretary Report
6. Finance Report
 - Adoption of Annual Accounts to 31st December 2018
 - Appointment of Independent Examiners
7. Buildings and Fabric Report
8. Diocesan Synod Report & Deanery Synod Report
9. Elections
 - PCC Members: four for 3-year term
one for 1-year term
 - Deputy Wardens
 - Sidespersons
10. Spotlight on Activities
 - POD
 - Small Groups
 - Church Day Out
11. Any Questions?
12. Results of Elections
13. Any Other Business - *To be presented to the Chairman before the start of the meeting.*

Rectors Report

“I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it!”

Matthew 16 v 18

These are powerful words of truth spoken by Jesus to His apostles at Caesarea Philippi, just after Peter had identified Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of the Living God. There is much comfort in what Jesus says here:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| The church belongs to Jesus | ‘I will build <u>MY</u> church’ |
| The church will grow | ‘I will <u>BUILD</u> my church’ |
| There is no doubt that it will grow | ‘I <u>WILL</u> build my church’ |
| It is Jesus who grows it | ‘ <u>I</u> will build my church’ |
| The church will never die | ‘The gates of Hades (Death) <u>WILL NOT OVERCOME IT</u> ’ |

It is on the basis of Jesus’ strong commitment to His church that we joyfully get on with the business of worship, prayer, service and evangelism here at St James, knowing that He works in and through us to fulfil His great purposes in the world.

During the last year we have been working hard, by God’s grace, on various aspects of our 2020 Vision Mission Action Plan.

We have revamped our Small Groups, increasing their number and growing participation by almost 100%. They now have a clear purpose and the connection between Sunday sermons and Small Group studies is bearing much fruit.

We held our first Church Day Out in June, heading off to Latimer Minister in Buckinghamshire. The weather was glorious and a group of over 50 church members of all ages enjoyed the mix of worship and teaching, fun and fellowship, on the theme: “Unlocking Your Prayer Life”. The day out was the first element in a 3-year nurture & discipleship strategy which will see us return to Latimer in June this year for a day on the theme: “Keep in Step with the Spirit’ and then head to Ashburnham Place in Sussex for a Church Weekend Away in June 2020.

We have been seeking God’s lead on developing our Evangelism strategy, asking God how we can be more effective in helping people who don’t yet know Jesus to come to know Him as Saviour and Lord. This will involve various initiatives in three main areas - How to help those who already have a connection with St James to come to faith in Jesus. How to help who do not yet have a connection with St James to come to know Jesus. How to help every member of St James to grow in confidence and competence in sharing their faith with others.

Undergirding all this is a recommitment to corporate prayer which is the engine of mission. As I write, we are part way through a sermon & study series on this subject and we have already seen the close biblical connection between corporate prayer, the powerful work of the Holy Spirit, and the church engaging in mission. Our intention is to use this series to help us review and renew how we pray together as a church.

In addition, the Building for the Kingdom team has continued its hard work, seeking to discern God's will for our buildings. We are almost ready to commission a feasibility study which will be an enormous help in showing us what is possible and assisting us to decide on a preferred option for redevelopment. This project will be critical in helping to fulfil God's mission plans for St James.

As ever, I would like to thank everyone who gives of their time, money and skills to enable the life of St James to flourish. It is an absolute joy and privilege to serve alongside you. Thanks be to God!

Grace and Peace,



Revd Rob Powell
Rector
April 2019

St James Church
Summarised Minutes of the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held on 29th April 2018

Rob welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer.

Apologies: Adam & Jo Seymour-Davies, Lisa Burrows, Pat Dennis, John & Sandra Rouse, Catherine Rouse, Emily Rouse, Neils Ribeiro Senior, Xaviera Ribeiro, Jason Darter and Paulette Braithwaite.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and accepted with 1 abstention.

Election of Church Wardens:

Antony Herbert standing down this year after 2 years and Rob thanked him for his hard work and a gift was given.

Femi Nzegwu proposed by Glynis Wilkinson and seconded by Nick Burt

Femi was duly elected to serve as Church Warden for the coming year.

Electoral Roll

120 non-resident and 59 resident, giving a total number on the Electoral Roll of 179.

PCC Secretary report as per the booklet.

Finance Report:

This was given by Paula Thomas and a full report is in the booklet.

The accounts had been approved by the PCC and Auditors prior to the APCM. The APCM formally adopted the accounts unanimously, Kat Striesow proposed, and Martin Langford seconded.

Paula Thomas proposed that we re-appoint Leroy Reid as Independent Examiners, seconded by Nick Burt, unanimous vote.

Rob thanked Paula for all she has done. Paula is stepping down after 7 years as Church Treasurer. A thank you token was given in appreciation for all she has done.

Deanery Synod and Diocesan Synod reports as per the booklet.

Election of PCC Members

Nominations

Yvonne Mason

Millie Miller

Jane Thorpe

Lisa Burrows

Monica Gordon

Peter Neill

Adam Seymour-Davis

Proposed by

Pauline Pepperrell

Paulette Braithwaite

Carol Burt

Glynis Wilkinson

Winnie Smikle

Adam Seymour-Davis

Glynis Wilkinson

Seconded by

Glynis Wilkinson

Winnie Smikle

John Farebrother

Jo Seymour-Davis

Paulette Braithwaite

Glynis Wilkinson

Steve Linton

Deputy Wardens

Kirk Douglas, Yvonne Mason and Dan Obene. We need to find 1 more Deputy Warden.

Sidespersons

We have a good team which is always open to new volunteers.

Building for the Kingdom and Fabric Report

See reports in the booklet.

Any Questions

None were received.

Election results - see above.

Any Other Business - none received.

Summary of Accounts and Notes

PCC Meetings

The PCC held 7 meetings during the year. The average attendance was 81% (previously 69%).

Committees

The PCC operates through a number of task groups, which have met between full meetings of the PCC, to whom they are responsible and to whom they report.

Church Attendance

The Church Electoral Roll records 179 (previously 176) persons as members of the Church, 122 of whom are not resident within the parish.

The average Sunday attendance, counted during October and November was 92 (previously 86) plus 25 (previously 22) under the age of 16.

The number increased at festivals.

Review of the year

The various activity groups will highlight their activities during the year by giving reports at the APCM or in this Report Booklet.

Summary of Accounts and Notes

The activities of the parish insofar as they impinge upon the Statement of Financial Activities have been as follows:

1. The parish's contribution to the central fund of the Diocese of Southwark (the Parish Support Fund) remains the principal item of expenditure at £75,000 for 2018 (£72,467-2017) and has been paid in full.
2. Voluntary contributions from members of the congregation remain the principal source of income.

Income from donations for unrestricted purposes including claimed Gift Aid amounted to £140,888 (£153,987- 2017). An Advent Thanksgiving gift day was held with a commitment that the first £3,000 of donations would be divided between two overseas projects - The Onside Soccer Project in Uganda, and Crosslinks (Alun and Debbie Burt) in South Africa. Total donations received were £17,797 including associated Gift Aid (£17,785 - 2017).

The PCC continues to encourage the congregation to give to the Church in a regular and committed way using one of the stewardship schemes. Tax efficient regular giving to the General Fund amounted to £80,223 (£76,326 - 2017) and with other Gift Aided donations, £26,226 (£26,179 - 2017) was claimed in Gift Aid for unrestricted purposes.

Other donations of £7,442 (£23,454 - 2017) included restricted donations for various areas of the Church's ministry. The PCC's commitment to supporting all aspects of mission resulted in £38,645 (£40,142 - 2017) being granted to several causes including support for the Furzedown Youth Centre by the donation of the £21,976 for rent and utility bills. A tithe on income from giving of £12,603 (£13,909 - 2017) was split equally between three Mission partners: Furzedown Youth Centre, "Crosslinks" in support of Alun and Debbie Burt's ministry and the Church Missionary Society in support of David and Amy Roche's ministry in the Lebanon. A further £535 was donated by members and

forwarded to “Crosslinks” in support of Alun and Debbie Burt’s ministry.

Total income amounted to £244,987 (£259,104 - 2017) of which £4,775 was restricted (£4,517 - 2017). Total expenditure amounted to £236,982 (£234,578 - 2017) of which £5,031 was expenditure on restricted items (£4,343 - 2017).

The generosity of the people of St. James continues to be a source of both encouragement and humility. It is encouraging that we have been able to welcome new faces into the congregation. It is hoped that newcomers will soon become full and active members of our Electoral Roll.

3. The churches of the Furzedown Team Ministry (St. James, St Alban’s and St. Pauls) continue to work closely together and with Mitcham Lane Baptist Church, sharing a vision of mission in the community, especially in the area of ministry to young people both through Sunday groups and through the work of the Furzedown Youth Centre.
4. The Church continues its commitment to children and young peoples’ ministry. A full-time Youth Minister is jointly employed with our partner churches. Little Fishes continues to be, for many, a first introduction to church life and is currently oversubscribed. Get Set and Adventurers continue to engage with children of Primary school age during the week. JAM, run by Glynis Wilkinson continues to grow in numbers, and runs each week from Goldfinch Primary School. POD is a new activity for school children in year 7.
5. The Church continues its commitment to the Furzedown Youth Centre and, in partnership, work to improve the facilities of both the upper and lower halls continues to be the goal of the Community Centre Management Committee. The Church views FYC as a major resource for the young people in the surrounding community.
6. During the year the Church continued to consider the use of its buildings and possible developments that might be undertaken to further the mission of the Church in the future. A small working group under the Building for the Kingdom Project has been working on developing proposals and has fed back to the PCC and church members for further input during the year.

The parish’s financial position has seen a net income of £8,005 which, although is a surplus, it is down on 2017’s net of income of £24,526. This was largely due to the following:

1. A reduction on Hall hire activity.
2. A large spend on the new heating system £11,754.

The PCC considers that the Building Reserve of £23,534 is an appropriate sum to set aside for unforeseen repairs required to the Church building. However, it is committed to increasing this reserve by a transfer of £5,000 from the General Fund each year when surplus funds are available.

The balance on the General Reserves at the end of the year was £78,675, an increase of £19,813 from the start of the year. This is slightly above the agreed policy of holding reserves equal to three months’ unrestricted expenditure - circa £59,250 at December 2018. Meanwhile designated funds of £26,346 are also available and could be undesignated by the PCC if required.

Alan Burrows
Treasurer

Extracted Information from the Accounts

| Various items of Income | 2018 | 2017 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Gift Aided Giving via Bank Standing Orders | 42,205 | 42,357 |
| Gift Aided Giving via Envelopes | 38,028 | 33,969 |
| Non-Gift Aided Giving via Standing Orders | 1,841 | 2,815 |
| Non-Gift Aided Giving via Envelopes | 6,365 | 7,422 |
| Giving via Plate Collection | 7,952 | 7,669 |
| Donations to the General Fund (day to day housekeeping fund) | 6,606 | 21,971 |
| Gift Aid received on giving to the General Fund | 23,043 | 22,970 |
| Advent Thanksgiving Gifts | 17,797 | 17,785 |
| Legacies | - | - |
| Letting/Hire of Upper Hall | 32,438 | 28,080 |
| Letting/Hire of Church and Centre | 6,110 | 6,850 |
| Fees for Weddings and Funerals (PCC retained) | 2,456 | 2,528 |
| Bible Study Notes sales | 373 | 425 |
| Well coffee and cake sales | 4,033 | 3,650 |
| Rental income from 171 Mitcham Lane | 25,158 | 24,305 |
| Children's Ministry receipts (Get Set, Little Fishes, Holiday Clubs etc) | 2,920 | 3,124 |
| Donations to Crosslinks (from individuals) | 535 | 710 |

| Various items of Expenditure | 2018 | 2017 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Fairer Share (contribution to Diocese) | 75,000 | 72,467 |
| Church Insurance | 6,386 | 6,425 |
| Hall Insurance | 1,742 | 1,558 |
| Church Utilities (heat and light) | 8,028 | 7,024 |
| Hall Utilities | 4,129 | 4,617 |
| Church Repairs & Maintenance | 8,306 | 19,439 |
| Hall Repairs & Maintenance | 3,025 | 8,583 |
| 171 Mitcham Lane Maintenance and Expenses | 2,503 | 5,752 |
| Contribution to shared Churches Youth Ministries | 14,272 | 14,251 |
| Salaries and Support | 35,610 | 31,777 |
| Clergy Expenses | 592 | 645 |
| Church Catering - incl Well | 1,725 | 2,231 |
| Printing and Production | 2,158 | 1,631 |
| Postage and Telephone | 602 | 717 |
| Examination of Accounts | 1,200 | 1,200 |
| Mission Support through tithe on Regular Giving | 12,604 | 13,909 |
| Crosslinks Donations (non - tithe) | 535 | 710 |

St. James Church West Streatham
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 December 2018

| | Unrestricted £ | Restricted £ | Endowment £ | Total £ | 2017 £ |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Income and endowments from: | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 140,888 | 4,286 | - | 145,174 | 158,445 |
| Charitable activities | 68,076 | - | - | 68,076 | 64,644 |
| Other trading activities | 5,174 | 489 | - | 5,663 | 4,910 |
| Investments | 25,398 | - | - | 25,398 | 24,347 |
| Other | 676 | - | - | 676 | 6,758 |
| Total | 240,212 | 4,775 | - | 244,987 | 259,104 |
| Expenditure on charitable activities: | | | | | |
| Church activities | 140,762 | 1,461 | - | 142,223 | 148,299 |
| Salaries and support costs | 52,768 | - | - | 52,768 | 43,028 |
| Management and administration | 3,346 | - | - | 3,346 | 3,109 |
| Mission giving and charitable donations | 35,075 | 3,570 | - | 38,645 | 40,142 |
| Total | 231,951 | 5,031 | - | 236,982 | 234,578 |
| Net (expenditure)/income | 8,261 | (256) | - | 8,005 | (24,526) |
| Transfers between funds | (242) | 242 | - | - | - |
| Net movement in funds | 8,019 | (14) | - | 8,005 | 24,526 |
| Reconciliation of funds: | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | 97,003 | 10,625 | 100,613 | 208,241 | 183,715 |
| Total funds carried forward | 105,022 | 10,611 | 100,613 | 216,246 | 208,241 |

St. James Church West Streatham

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2018

| | 2018 £ | 2017 £ |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Fixed assets | | |
| Curates House 171 Mitcham Lane | 100,613 | 100,613 |
| | 100,613 | 100,613 |
| Current assets | | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 91,096 | 95,456 |
| Investments | 8,659 | 8,659 |
| Sundry debtors | 35,618 | 23,056 |
| Prepayments | 832 | 405 |
| | 136,205 | 127,576 |
| Liabilities | | |
| Accrual Independent Examination | 1,200 | 1,200 |
| Creditor HMRC PAYE & NI | 833 | 828 |
| Other sundry creditors and accruals | 18,539 | 17,920 |
| | 20,572 | 19,948 |
| Net current assets | 115,633 | 107,628 |
| Net assets | 216,246 | 208,241 |
| Represented by: | | |
| Unrestricted funds | 78,675 | 58,862 |
| Designated funds | 26,346 | 38,141 |
| Restricted funds | 10,611 | 10,625 |
| Endowment funds | 100,613 | 100,613 |
| | 216,245 | 208,241 |

Building and Fabric Report

With the building for the Kingdom project firmly on the horizon, maintenance of our Church buildings continues to be a balancing act between ensuring key services are adequately maintained and ensuring any major improvements are future proofed (as best as possible). The PCC, ever conscious of your generosity, has deliberated over these decisions to ensure the right balance is achieved

Although there have been some improvement works undertaken this year, works have mainly been preventative or corrective in nature. Please see below for a summary of main works.

Heating

- Annual maintenance of Church Boiler system undertaken.
- Annual maintenance of Church hall hot air heating system.
- Replacement of aged and ineffective convection heaters in Church.
- Installation of additional heating in Church lobby/foyer.

Flooring

- Deep clean of carpeting in Church centre.
- Repairs to flooring in upper Church hall.

Plumbing

- Replacement of water heaters serving upper and lower halls.

Electrical

- Rewiring for lighting in Church lobby/foyer.

Church hall Bell Cot

- Repairs to pest prevention netting around Bell Cot.

Main works planned for 2019

- Fire safety works to comply with improvements highlighted in 2017/2018 building assessment report.
- Audio visual improvements.

Femi Nzegwu
Churchwarden

Building for the Kingdom Report

The last 12 months have been really important for the Building for the Kingdom group as we continue to seek to understand God's wishes for St James and how the buildings can be used in service of his mission. We have worked really hard to keep the St James congregation informed of the choices we need to make through a range of engagements: from participating in Church services, the creation of a FAQ (frequently asked questions) document and a dedicated Building for the Kingdom notice board. The great news is that we have been blessed by the level of engagement from our Church family. We have been able to understand some of the many opportunities that our buildings could offer as well as listening to the concerns that people may have about potential changes to the buildings that they love. All of this we take to the Lord in prayer via a weekly prayer meeting where we seek His guidance, His will and His wisdom to carry out the tasks set before us.

The Building for the Kingdom working group has also changed in the past 12 months. We have seen some of the original members of the working group step down or take a sabbatical. I really want to take the opportunity to publicly thank them for the work they have done during their tenure on the working group, we will miss their contributions and their leadership. The good news is that St James is full of people with gifts and talents which we are putting to good use so that, as in Matthew 25:14-30, when the master returns, He will be pleased with what we have done.

Looking forward the coming 12 months is going to be really exciting. We have reflected and have agreed the criteria through which we will select an architect and have started preparing a brief. We will conduct a feasibility study to understand what is actually possible with the spaces we have. We will move forward with building a business case for review and sign off with the Diocese. We are developing our communication strategy so that everyone in the Church family and the wider community will be engaged, and we have started to build the plan that will take us from where we are - through the various stages - to the conclusion of this project.

Rob keeps on reminding me that the building of the great temple by David took 7 years (at least) and was not completed by him but by his son Solomon; so, we may still have a long way to go. One thing which is clear to me is, for us to be successful, we will continue to need your support and prayers as we seek to stay on His path and determine His will for St James buildings.

Michael White
Chair, Building for the Kingdom Working Group

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Sunday Children's Ministry

We are so blessed to have lots of children in our church family at St James. They bring such life to us and we learn so much from them about what it means to follow Jesus. Creche, Bubbles and Splash meet every Sunday morning, except on Messy Sunday, for age-appropriate Bible teaching. Before the children go to their groups the adults join with them in singing the weekly Action Song. This has become quite a feature at St James over the last couple of years. During the last year we have also enjoyed hearing one of the children praying for the adults each Sunday, that they would meet with God during the sermon slot just as we pray the children will meet with God in their groups. Numbers of children attending groups can fluctuate, which is a challenge for the leaders.

On behalf of the whole church I would like to thank our team of dedicated leaders and helpers. We were sad to say goodbye to Jenefer Spells this year after over 30 years' service in Creche. We will strive, by God's grace, to maintain her high standards and faithful commitment.

Rob Powell

Get Set

Get Set is our midweek club for children in Reception and School Years 1 and 2. It runs in term time on Tuesdays in the Centre at 3.30pm. As they arrive, children have a drink and biscuit and then choose a craft or play activity. After half an hour, the clearing up music prompts all to help to get ready for story time, an action song and games. We finish with time in small groups to colour a picture of the Bible story and chat about it together before parents arrive. 23 children have attended Get Set since September 2018 with most children attending regularly each week. The majority are aged 4-6 and in Reception or School year 1. Only 4 children are currently in school year 2. 12 children now attend St. James, with some having begun attending over the past six months. During the Autumn Term we learnt about prayer and took an in-depth look at the Christmas story. Since Christmas we have focussed on Jesus life, His teaching and miracles, leading up to his death and resurrection at Easter. The Get Set Team this year are: Carol Burt, Bethany Powell, Claire Powell, June Vevers and Glynis Wilkinson.

Claire Powell

Adventurers

Adventurers is our midweek club for children in School Years 3-6. It runs on Wednesday evenings in term time in the Centre at 5.45pm. Sessions begin with games, followed by a story from the Bible which the children then chat over in groups with a drink and biscuit. After this we enjoy a craft, quiz or treasure hunt, and more games. We follow the same general teaching programme as Get Set, with the children looking at Bible stories in more depth and with more involved activities to follow. 27 children have attended since September 2018. 7 of these attend church. We do hope and pray for more families of children in our midweek groups to become a part of the St. James Church family. The Adventurers team this year is: Bethany Powell, Claire Powell, Rev Geoff Vevers and Glynis Wilkinson.

Claire Powell

POD

Six girls graduated from Adventurers last summer and a new Bible-based small group 'POD' (Pocket of Disciples) was created in September 2018 to support them and create a place where they could continue to learn about Jesus.

The group meets in FYC on Thursday evenings at 6pm. We start with table-tennis or pool and when everyone has arrived, move through to the back room for nibbles and an ice-breaker. This is followed by a short Bible and prayer time; a game and a craft activity. It took a while for the group to get going but by November 2018 four girls were attending regularly. All are at different schools and can be quite shy, but as a safe space was created they became more relaxed with one another and open to share, and it has been a joy to support them in the challenging transition to secondary school. In the Spring Term we lost one member, but another two girls in Year 8 also joined. It has been great to see the group grow. The girls are all very different yet it is a delight to see how they welcome and encourage one other.

In the Autumn Term our Bible studies focussed on self-image; friendship; worry; and what it means to be a Christian and at Christmas we went on a fun trip to the Pantomime.

In the Spring Term we looked at the parables of Jesus and the Easter story.

2 of the 5 young people attend a church.

The POD team are: Bethany Powell, Claire Powell, and Glynis Wilkinson.

Claire Powell

Little Fishes

‘Wiggle, wiggle, wiggle, wiggle, wiggle, wiggle, wiggle, wiggle, wiggle, wiggle, freeze!’

What a joy it is to wiggle into church every Thursday with a crowd of excited toddlers and their parents for song and story time. This is the heart of Little Fishes, our weekly parent & toddler group.

We are often told that Little Fishes is unusual as far as toddler groups go, due to the fact that it is explicitly Gospel-focused in its purpose, format and content. Little Fishes is a community of parents (and grandparents in some cases) and their pre-school children meeting together each week for craft, play and friendship with Christian songs and a Bible puppet show as the highlight. For some it is effectively their church, as they may not attend formal church anywhere else. For others it is a bridge into the life of St James and it has been encouraging to see an increasing number coming on Sundays. It is also heartening to see a developing crossover between Little Fishes, The Well, Dads’ Breakfast and Messy Sunday. There is no doubt that this is frontier mission work for which we need the grace of God.

Little Fishes is run by a superb team of volunteers for whom I am very grateful - Ailie, Kat, Beth, Johan, Lucille, Jo, Glynis, Natasha, Alan and Lisa. We said goodbye to Sarah and Roey in 2018 and we are very grateful for their wonderful help over several years.

Rob Powell

Holiday Clubs

St James’ Children’s Summer Holiday Club, ‘Super Heroes to the Rescue’, was as popular as ever with capacity numbers from the community coming to learn that Jesus is the real Superhero because He can do all the things our superheroes couldn’t. But more importantly He also has the authority and power to forgive us all the wrong things we do. In the first teaching session of each day 43 children watched Supergirl-Bethany Powell, Thor-Johan Allen, Spiderman-Sam Talbot and Nick Fury-Geoff Vevers attempt to rescue a kitten in a tree, capture a Gorilla escaped from the zoo and free two of the superheroes captured by the evil queen. Of course, all attempts ended in hilarious disaster. In the second teaching session Rev Rob compared their lack of bravery and power to that which God gave ordinary people in the

Bible to do extraordinary things.

We discovered that God's power is far greater than that of the superheroes or ours.

We wish to thank the team comprised of people from across the Furzedown Churches: Johan Allen; Marion Bird; Alan & Lisa Burrows; Carol Burt; Ian Hare; Mark Pybus; Rob, Claire & Beth Powell; Natalie Richeux; Sian Roberts; Hannah & Jacob Soodeen; Sam Talbot; Geoff & June Vevers; Glynis Wilkinson; Georgie Talbot-costume maker and John Talbot - Gorilla, puppets-direction.

Carol Burt

Contact with Schools

It has been a joy and privilege to continue our very close relationship with Eardley School, now called Goldfinch. Rob and Glynis lead termly assemblies and Glynis runs a weekly session on Wednesdays called JAM - Jesus and Me, a lunchtime club with games, craft and Bible teaching. Most of the children who attend JAM are not church-connected, so this is a great mission opportunity. We also held a Carols by Candlelight service before term ended in December and welcomed classes into church for an interactive Christmas journey, telling the story of the birth of Jesus.

We have also been blessed to welcome classes from Furzedown School for a general church visit and Penwortham School for an interactive talk on baptism.

We shouldn't take these contacts for granted but give thanks to God for the opportunities He gives to reach children, parents and teachers with the Gospel.

Rob Powell

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Sunday Youth Groups:

Our Sunday morning groups have been consistent in number and we have seen real depth in understanding, both in head and heart of God's love for the young people.

Resonate

Resonate our 11-14's group regularly has approx. 10-15 young people every week. Most come about 2 or 3 times a month. We hope *Resonate* is space for the young people to take ownership of their faith and find fellowship with other Christians their age. . Sam leads this group with a team of 9 others; 2 volunteers from St James, 4 from MLBC, and 1 from St Albans, we also have ministers from St James and the minister from St Albans. Last term we looked at Bible Characters. This term we are looking at the Identity.

Deeper Connections (DC)

DC our 14-18's group regularly has approx. 15 young people every week. *DC* has a core of regulars but there are many other young people who dip in and out depending on exam/coursework load or other commitments. *DC* is a time for the young people to go deeper in their questioning and understanding, filled with discussions on many themes and plenty of hot chocolate. The young people are helping to steer the topics. Sam leads this group with a team of 5 others; 2 from St James and 3 from MLBC.

Other Youth Activities

1-2-1's

Some of the youth team regularly meet 1-2-1 with a handful of young people and provide opportunity where more intentional conversation and listening can take place. Pastoral care is important to the youth ministry and so we will continue making it a priority in all the provision that is offered. I am looking to increase the number of young people being mentored but this can be a lengthy process. Currently there are 9 young people being mentored. We will continue to work with the young people and look to provide more opportunities for them.

Mentoring in Schools

Within the last year I have been mentoring in Graveney but struggled to regain entry since September due to a number of issues that have been out of my control. Every week I do a lunch time club in Goldfinch supporting the school doing behavioural support mentoring with year 3's, year 4's and year 5's. This has been successful and I look forward to working with them in the future.

Carol Service

In December I lead and provided a short talk for Penwortham and Furzedown primary school carol services at MLBC, they were very productive.

Easter Service

Last year Penwortham school came to MLBC to do their Easter service as they don't have space to do assemblies of a large nature. My talk about Jesus and Easter went well. This has enabled me to continue to develop my relationship with Penwortham and I will be doing another Easter service in the coming weeks.

Romania

This summer we are looking to take 8 young people (1 from St James and 7 from MLBC) to Romania to share God with families, children and young people in Turga Mures. We need to raise £9000 and we are currently doing well in our fundraising attempts. We have 5 adult leaders going this year (3 from St James and 1 from MLBC and Sam Talbot youth minister).

Soul Survivor

Last Summer we took 11 young people to Soul Survivor it was a great time to dig deeper into God. Young people were truly blessed by this and is a vital part of the youth work that we do.

FYC Residential

Just a few weeks ago in the February half term we took 12 young people from FYC and youth ministry to Hindleap Warren activity residential centre. It was a great time of getting to know young people and during this weekend I was personally able to share God with a number of them who have never experienced Christianity before. We will be keeping in contact with those who took bibles away and praying that God will speak to them.

Youth Socials

Each month we do a youth social which are very popular and give young people time to share food and play games together.

Safeguarding

Since Geoff Vevers was appointed to safeguarding officer we have worked closely on updating the policies and sorting out any safeguarding issues that have occurred. We are committed to safeguarding the young people and all who we come into contact with.

Thanks and Prayer

A massive thank you to everyone who is supporting the youth ministry. I am looking at different ways to give our young people an opportunity to grow in their faith and therefore empower them to have stronger foundations in Jesus.

The youth team is continuing to grow - yet we are always looking for more volunteers as we carry on expanding the ministry! It is great to have the support of the churches and especially the support of parents also. Please pray for continuing discipleship and growth in the youth ministry and for the lives of all the young people and their families we have contact with.

Sam Talbot, Youth Minister

Furzedown Youth Centre

As I write, 11 of our young people are returning from a highly successful weekend away at an activity centre run by London Youth. Hindleap Warren is set in 300 acres of private woodland and welcomes approximately 10,000 children and young people every year, supporting and challenging them to be the best they can be. Through a combination of outdoor activities and the inherent benefits of attending a residential centre, young people are given the opportunity to develop their social and emotional capabilities. A trip to Hindleap offers young people the chance to improve their confidence, resilience and develop positive relationship skills. It has been a great adventure for our young people.

The past 12 months have been an adventure for FYC in other ways. We have seriously been exploring a change of direction in our work. It began with a vision to draw together the two arms of youth work in the Furzedown Team of churches, FYC (with its part-time post of Youth Centre Manager) and the youth ministry run by FCL (with its full time Youth Minister post). Church Leaders have felt for some time that, while, as individual units, both had strengths, there was little effective interaction between the two. One proposal was to seek somehow to amalgamate the two posts, creating one new post, with the post-holder being a member of our churches. This had widespread support and was deemed cost effective. However, one of the 4 sponsoring churches wanted to explore the possibility of employing its own youth worker, so the idea of an amalgamated post was put on hold.

Another proposal has emerged, as a result of a noticeable drop in numbers at FYC. It was thought that we might consider employing a full time Outreach Worker and start using the Centre facilities as a community hub for this. If the traditional club-night style of youth work was no longer appealing (and other youth centres across South London were also reporting a similar decline) perhaps we need to re-think how we do the sort of open youth work that FYC once did so well. At the same time, there has been growing concern across South London about the rise in knife crime and gang and drug-related violence. According to police sources the most vulnerable time for young people on the streets is between 4pm and 6pm. This got us thinking. Should we be looking to provide a drop-in facility for young people during these hours? Our research gave us some interesting examples. In Penrith, for instance, the Church Army has opened just such a drop-in centre, called 'The Gathering', a town centre shop currently hosting an after-schools youth café and a home work club, plus small groups (exploring big questions about God and life). Something like this might be a more effective way

of reaching young people in Furzedown and we have heard that a number of local parents would favour such a proposal. We are also aware that during term time a very large number of 6th formers from Graveney School roam the streets between periods, (having no common room facilities on site), many gathering on the grounds of St. Paul's church and in local cafes. We could use the Centre as a facility to make contact with them.

All these exciting ideas have led us to explore new ways of being as FYC, and perhaps a combination of them might win support from the churches, say, a full-time pioneer youth minister running both the Sunday youth ministry and outreach work during the week. As yet no final decisions have been made, but we are hoping and praying for the Lord's guidance in this and we believe that 2019 could well see a new development.

Rev Geoff Vevers, Chair

ADULT MINISTRIES

Small Groups

This year has seen a major reorganisation of our home group provision following a detailed review by a committee charged by the clergy and PCC for this purpose, which took into account a wide range of views and ideas, including those of all current Home Group leaders. Our operating principles and guidance criteria were also discussed, and the choice of an appropriate name - of which '*Small Groups*' became the preferred choice. It was also agreed upon an expansion of groups and a drive to recruit the majority of the church family to join. This has proved successful and the numbers attending has increased from 40 to 71! We have also managed to increase provision for people to meet during the day as well as on a variety of evenings including weekends.

Small groups meet regularly, either weekly or fortnightly, and follow a joint programme of bible readings which relate directly to current sermon series. This has proved both popular and helpful since its inception in September 2018. There are now nine groups in total, which meet on Monday, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturday.

Belonging to a Small Group offers an informal setting in which to develop friendships, whilst at the same time getting to know the Bible better. They also provide an opportunity to care for one another through prayer and fellowship and offer a source of mutual support and encouragement. There are fun times too - plus meals together. New members are always welcome. Please speak to either Johan or Rob.

Johan Allen

Tuesday Communion

Our Tuesday morning communion continues to meet each week in the church during term times.

The service is quiet and reflective and offers an opportunity for fellowship and prayer, in addition to teaching and reflection based on a varying series of bible readings from Old and New Testaments.

Since April last year we have studied the book of Hebrews, the 2nd & 3rd letters of John, and Isaiah and Mark. As always these have proved informative and encouraging, yet challenging too, in many different ways!

After communion we adjourn to 'The Well' for more fellowship and chat as well as tea/coffee and toasted tea-cakes or whatever else takes your fancy!

Should you be free on a Tuesday morning at 10:30am, you are more than welcome to join us!

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is an integral part of the life, work and mission of St James and is offered by the Clergy and Pastoral Team including SPA's (Southwark Pastoral Auxiliaries) to all and any who may require it. This will include visits at home or in hospital and offers of help, support and prayer by the church and members of the church family as and when appropriate or necessary. Our service of pastoral care is monitored and reviewed regularly in order to ensure the needs of vulnerable individuals in the church family are being met. We also have links with the MacIntyre House Care Home in Anvil Close, from which some members attend church on a Sunday with their carers when they can, or sometimes attend the 'Well' during the week.

Johan Allen

Dads' Breakfast

It is such a joy to welcome dads and their children into the Church Centre on the first Saturday morning of each month for Dads' Breakfast. The aroma of sizzling bacon and hot coffee is intoxicating! The format is very simple - dads and children enjoy a hearty breakfast and then the children play together whilst dads have some space to chat and read the papers. We have seen numbers grow over the last year and rejoice in more partners of Little Fishes mums coming along.

Thanks to the faithful team for all your hard work - Glynis, Nick, Kirk and Alan!

Rob Powell

Prayer Ministry

Prayer Ministry at St James has continued to grow and develop. There are a core of 12 people who serve on the team, both male and female and their photos can be seen on the prayer corner wall.

We have seen numbers of people coming for prayer increase, and the opportunities during the Healing and Anointing services, and Messy Sunday - continue to be very popular; with up to 30 people each service being ministered too.

In addition, the Prayer Ministry Team can offer prayer after most services (excluding Messy Sunday) in the prayer corner. People also use of the prayer corner for personal prayer and the use of written requests made to and prayed for at the 'In Touch' service.

We are also happy that people don't feel limited to 'when and where' they can pray, and people are frequently using the pews after the service to pray for each other.

We are really encouraged by how God has healed and blessed people throughout the year by using the prayer ministry team and are excited by what he has for us in the future.

Pauline Pepperrell

Men's Group

The Men's Group is a social group which meets up on the first Thursday of every month and is made up of men of all ages from all corners of our church family and beyond. Attendance remains strong, although numbers fluctuate during holiday seasons.

Events include pub nights, ten pin bowling, sporting events and meals out. Many attendees come from outside the parish, and so we meet at venues located in Furzedown, Mitcham,

Streatham and Tooting. We never go to the same setting twice in the same year!

All men are welcome to attend; we also encourage men from outside our church family to join us too, as a few did in 2018. If you've never been to one of our gatherings, I would urge you to join us; look out for details of our next outing on the church website or on our social media platforms.

Adam Seymour-Davies

Ladies Group

The Ladies Night Out is a social group which meets up on the last Friday of each month usually at a local pub. Often having a meal or just drinks & snacks together.

Its been running now for a year & the attendance has varied from month to month but it is usually between 6-10 women who meet. All women of any age are welcome whether members of St James or not. It's such a lovely way to get to know each other, have good conversation, fun & the odd late night!!!

Ailie Neill and Jo Seymour-Davies

Solo Ladies Lunch

We go out for Sunday Lunch every other month. We have a chat a laugh and well-fed tummies. If you would like to join us, please see me.

Marion Bird

Friendship Circle

The Friendship Circle has enjoyed another calendar year of activities meeting broadly once a month, either in the Church Centre or out and about in a Wandsworth Community Transport minibus in the warmer sunnier weather. Average attendance has ranged from 15 to 20 plus with in addition apologies from many of the members who could not attend for one reason or another. Total membership is now 35.

The programme has been put together as usual by a small planning committee consisting of Freda Rouse, Olga Armour, Beryl Hazelgrove, Yvonne Mason and Steve Linton. Johan Allen has continued to provide oversight of the Friendship Circle. The committee members also assisted in providing our refreshments for each meeting in the Church Centre for which we thank them.

Our year began in January with Freda running a challenging games afternoon while in February we decided to get fit with an armchair exercise class from Dorian Jones which was fun. In March Rob came to share experiences of the Parish Pilgrimage to Israel in 2017. In April we had an interesting talk from Dementia Friends encouraging us to consider the needs of others suffering from this illness. In May Michael Gilbert came to deliver the first in an interesting series about the history behind the Crystal Palace site over the centuries.

In June we travelled to Osterley Park and visited the house followed by a very pleasant afternoon tea at Heather Wright's flat. We also had the incident of our minibus "colliding" with a large tree while attempting to park adjacent to it! In July we visited the Dulwich Picture Gallery and then went onto enjoy a picnic in Dulwich Park on a very hot sunny afternoon. We were grateful to Val Hart in assisting in the running of this event.

In August we enjoyed Holiday at Home with members of the other Furzedown Churches. At the end of September, we joined again with Church members in the highly successful MacMillan Community Coffee Morning led by Geoff Vevers. In October Chris Hart delivered an enjoyable musical afternoon reminding us in part of the hymns and choruses we used to sing in Church.

In November Geoff Vevers came and shared parish peculiars he had experienced during his career as a Parish Priest. We finished the year on a joyful note with our annual Christmas Lunch at the Toby Carvery, Mitcham with Johan and Sue Allen as our guests.

We welcome new members aged 55 and over whether from our or any of the Furzedown Churches or from the local community.

We have certainly had some fun and laughter together in our meetings and outings but also shared the pain of losing close friends. Sadly, we lost Edgar Lewis during the year who along with his wife Ena had been members of the Circle for many years. A number of members have not experienced the best of health during this past year with times in hospital as well as being confined to their homes for lengthy periods. Nevertheless, most of those members have been able to return to Church again after often a lengthy absence thankful for the supportive prayer they received from members.

We have just said as a Church goodbye to Chris and Val Hart in mid-April as they move to Eastbourne and members particularly want to thank Val for founding the Friendship Circle many years ago and taking it through its early and formative years very successfully and for Chris providing additional transport for many of the summer outings over the years besides the lively musical afternoons.

Our strength lies in the friendship and support between members, and a willingness to help and be there for each other in times of need including prayer support. This is particularly true for those members who are temporarily housebound as they can keep in touch through the telephone grapevine!

John Farebrother

The Well

Another great year and a real answer to prayer.

We are now quite busy on Tuesday mornings with young families (and grandparents) also child minders and their children. All the children play very well together.

The Tuesday morning Communion people also meet here for a drink and a chat round the coffee table after their service.

We have been blessed with Yvonne Mason and Olga Armour (from Friendship Circle) who have stepped in to help while Una is in Jamaica on a well-deserved holiday and Sue who was in hospital. Liz and Beth couldn't have managed on our own without their wonderful help.

Sometimes people come in, looking for help and we can offer them something to eat and drink and a listening ear. Also, we have some handouts with information of places they can go for help and other useful services.

Liz Gibbons

Policies and procedures for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

These are kept under regular review and are brought to the PCC annually.

Johan Allen

Mission Partners

It has been our practice for many years to set aside 10% of our general income to support God's

mission elsewhere.

In 2018 we have been blessed to continue our long-term relationship through Crosslinks with Alun & Debbie Burt in Heideveld, South Africa. We rejoice with Alun as he was inducted as the new Rector of St Thomas' Church in 2018 and we look forward to their visit to St James in June 2019. In addition to our mission tithe commitment to them we allocated half the 2018 Advent Gift Day proceeds to their support, in light of the rising costs they are facing in the next few years. We are committed to playing our part in ensuring that this essential Gospel ministry continues.

In 2018 we said goodbye to David & Amy Roche as their time in Lebanon with CMS came to an end and David took up a parish post in Winchester Diocese. The PCC has taken the decision to put support for CMS on hold in 2019 and not to request a new mission partner from them, so that we can channel some extra financial resources to the Burt's instead. This decision will be reviewed for 2020.

We continue to support the work of FYC locally as it seeks to reach out in word and deed to the young people of Furzedown. You can read more about their work elsewhere in this booklet.

Rob Powell

Foodbank

5 Wandsworth Food bank centres were opened in 2013.

5,218 three-day emergency food supplies were given to people in Wandsworth, in crisis last year.

1 in 5 of the UK population live below the poverty line.

1000 individual children in Wandsworth received emergency food last year St James and our partner churches support the Thursday session at St Pauls Church by giving food, other essential items and volunteer to run the session.

We believe that no one in our community should have to face going hungry. That's why three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support is provided, to local people who are referred in crisis. We are part of a nationwide network of food banks, supported by The Trussell Trust working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.

<https://wandsworth.foodbank.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/149/2017/05/Summary-of-Hunger-and-Poverty-Report-2017.pdf>

We also have the opportunity to demonstrate Gods love and compassion and are able to offer prayer, and sign post our visitors to other services that can help them out of their crisis.

Comments from visitors to St Paul's:

"Really helpful volunteers, so pleased that I was able to go, as before I came, I was weak as I was so hungry as I hadn't eaten for a while."

"I felt so ashamed to come to the Foodbank. It was the first time in our lives we have needed this help and the people were very friendly."

Pauline Pepperrell, Foodbank volunteer

Holiday @ Home

We had another great time at H@H, this year going on a Caribbean cruise! We had 26 'crew' over the 4 days, while guest numbers ranged from 16 on the Wednesday to 26 on the Friday. Usually the trip out is the most popular day, but we only had 23 guests, perhaps reflecting that

our guests are becoming less mobile, and not so keen to venture very far. It also highlights the need to attract new guests who might benefit from a social time together with others.

In the event, it was probably as well that we didn't have too many on the trip out to Kenwood House since, despite one of the driest and hottest summers on record, the day of the trip was wet and cold! However, those who went stoically put up with the inconveniences, and a good time was had by all.

On the other days, Suzanne did us proud with some lovely Caribbean themed food; we had a good selection of craft and exercise activities, including 'deck games' from Jill; floral arrangements with Wendy Clarke; scarf 'dancing' with Barbara West; flag-making with Judith and Janet. The latter were used to decorate the stage for the Friday afternoon show, when a highlight was a number of guests performing a simple dance routine to a Latin-style song, which they'd prepared with Nicky and Natalie. The Great Gustos came back again, and got into the Caribbean spirit with a number of well-chosen songs and costumes.

One measure of how much Holiday at Home is appreciated came following the death of one guest who had come to H@H in previous years, but didn't come to our churches: his family decided to give a donation to Holiday at Home, as they knew how much he had benefitted from, and appreciated coming.

Thanks, as ever, to the wonderful volunteers, and especially to the planning team (you know who you are!)

Holiday at Home 2019 will be from 6th to 9th August - do join us if you can, and if you can't, do pray for us!

Rev Marc Richeux

Social Media

St. James has public social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, as well as a private Facebook group for church members to interact & share prayer requests.

More people have become involved in following St. James on Twitter and Instagram this year. The number of Facebook followers has remained about the same:

Facebook: 120 people now follow the **St. James Church, West Streatham Page**
86 people are part of the **Members of St. James', West Streatham group**

Twitter: 108 people are following **@StJamesChurchWS**

Instagram: 51 people are following **stjamesweststreatham**

Twitter has been most significant with an increase of 35 followers.

Instagram has also increased by 28 but figures tend to fluctuate due to the nature of Instagram.

As before our followers include current and past church members; members of other Furzedown churches; families of children attending midweek clubs; and community groups.

Our social media team aim to post daily on Facebook and Twitter, and several times a week on Instagram. Links to the church website are included in all Facebook and Twitter posts, with Facebook in particular being useful in directing many people to the church website each month.

For example, during February 2019, 49 people visited the St. James website via a Facebook link.

Our social media can be valuable in helping St. James members to stay connected. For example, during March 2019, social media enabled us to relay daily updates from those on the Holy Land pilgrimage to the rest of the church which helped us to better pray for the group and to enjoy the experience with them. More people also now use the Members of St. James West Streatham Facebook group to share prayer requests for themselves and others.

As a church our social media aims are still to:

- Give church members an insight into activities at St. James that they may not be a direct part of, to enable everyone to understand, support, and feel a part of the church's ministry as a whole.
- Give a good flavour of who we are to the local community and those looking for a church to join.
- Direct people to the church website to find out more about us and hopefully get involved.

We would encourage every member of the church who uses social media to follow one of the church accounts to better understand and feel a part of the ministry of St. James.

The current Social Media Team are: Peter Neill, Claire Powell and Adam Seymour Davies.

Claire Powell

Furzedown Churches

“How good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters live together in unity” Psalm 133:1

Psalm 133 is a Song of Ascent - one of a block of Psalms in the Old Testament which were used by pilgrims making their way up to Jerusalem to celebrate the major Jewish festivals at the temple. People would travel from the different tribes scattered across the land of Israel and as they walked they would joyfully sing of the blessing that God promised to pour out on His diverse and united people.

Here in Furzedown we too want to joyfully thank God for His blessing poured out upon our four churches in 2018 as we have sought to live out our calling as His diverse and united people in this place, bound together by our common love for Jesus and our commitment to pray, worship, serve and evangelise together. We are grateful to have welcomed Ian Hare as the new Pastor of Mitcham Lane Baptist Church, along with his wife Judith, and we look forward very much to all that they will bring to us.

It has been another busy year with much fruitful activity including a Lent Course based on the film ‘Chariots of Fire’; a children’s holiday club on the ‘Superhero’ theme; Holiday @ Home with a Caribbean theme; the annual Soul Survivor youth trip; The Passion at Easter and The Nativity at Christmas; church involvement at the Big Day Out and Moyser Road Christmas Market; First Sunday and Last Sunday services as well as combined worship at major festivals such as Easter and Christmas and our termly day of prayer which now includes the occasional prayer walk around the neighbourhood. All this in addition to our ongoing commitment to Foodbank, Youth Ministry and FYC.

Many other churches look at Furzedown as a model of how things can be. Let’s not take what we have for granted, but rather be grateful to God and continue to seek His grace for our ongoing work in the future.

Rev Rob Powell

Deanery Synod

Tooting Deanery Synod met several times in 2017 with various subjects covered including:

- Refugee and Asylum seekers
- Lay Ministry Development
- Youth Ministry and Children's work

Several meetings were open to non-members and were well attended, including an evening of prayer to mark the National "Thy Kingdom Come" initiative.

Meetings are well attended and good discussions are held. The meetings are held in various places around the Deanery.

St James is represented by Rev Rob Powell, Rev Johan Allen, Glynis Wilkinson, Liz Gibbons, Susan Ribeiro and Stephanie Sulaiman.

Glynis Wilkinson

Diocesan Synod

Diocesan Synod, which is the governing body of Southwark Diocese, has met 3 times since the last APCM. The three year cycle of Diocesan Synod came to an end with the July meeting, and there were elections to the new synod in the summer. Nominations are made and members elected by the members of our Tooting Deanery Synod. Both Rob Powell and Sue Clarke chose to stand down from membership. Our Tooting Deanery is now represented by Julie Connell, myself, one other clergy and one other lay member. I am also a member of the Diocesan Council of Trustees, which has met 5 times.

The 'normal' business of any governing body, included items such as the Annual Report and Accounts for 2018 (we ended with a surplus of about £1.8million), setting a Budget for 2019 (a predicted surplus of about £100,000), reviewing and updating the Risk Register and setting and reviewing of Objectives for 2018 and 2019, together with on-going discussion and review of progress with the diocesan Strategy for Mission ('Hearts on Fire'**), which feeds down into our team and parish Mission Action Plans.

Beyond this business, there have been two exciting major areas of policy for discussion over this past year. The first has been following the work of the advisory group on Lay Leadership and Lay Ministry in Southwark, building on the excellent report for the Archbishops' Council: 'Setting God's People Free'. This asked the questions: "Will we determine to empower, liberate and disciple the 98% of the Church of England who are not ordained and therefore set them free for fruitful, faithful mission and ministry, influence, leadership and, most importantly, vibrant relationship with Jesus in all of life? And will we do so not only in church-based ministry on a Sunday, but in work and school, in gym and shop, in field and factory, Monday to Saturday?". The final report was approved by Synod, and a Lay Ministry Advisor has recently been appointed to assist with implementation of the recommendations.

The second area studied has been the development, indeed transformation, of our Deaneries, seeking to breathe new life into their workings, in order to ensure that deaneries become viable centres of mission and ministry. A daunting task maybe, but the working group has been ably led by Adrian Greenwood, who is a member of Gary Jenkins' church in Bermondsey. As well as renewing the Rules and Constitution for Deanery Synods, the group has addressed the roles of a deanery and drafted a new Vision Statement titled 'Partners in the Gospel'. In order to facilitate implementation of this vision, the group is recommending formation of Deanery Mission Teams, appointment of Mission Accompaniers, training for Area Deans and Lay Chairs, and developing deanery links with Chaplaincies, Secondary Schools, FE Colleges and Fresh

Expressions of Church within each deanery area. The final report was approved by Synod. The newly appointed Canon Missioner, Jay Colwill, is expected to work with the implementation of the mission aspects of this strategy, together with a newly appointed Deaneries Advisor.

The emphasis of the 'new' Synod has shifted significantly from forming the Strategic Vision for Mission across the Diocese and working up of plans in these two areas of development, to implementation of these plans while maintaining the financial progress achieved over the past 3 years. The financial strategy is to maintain an annual surplus year on year, based on the generosity of parish giving through the Parish Share system, and to build up working reserves to see us through the years ahead. Bids are also being pursued for strategic development grants from the Church Commissioners.

**The diocesan Strategy for Mission, *Hearts on Fire*, restates our commitment to mission, grounded in prayer, that the growth of the kingdom of God may be at the heart of all we do. In particular, we will:

- Serve our Communities;
- Share our faith with great joy and gladness;
- Be the Church: a people with hearts on fire, loving God, walking with Jesus and led by the Spirit.

Nick Burt

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